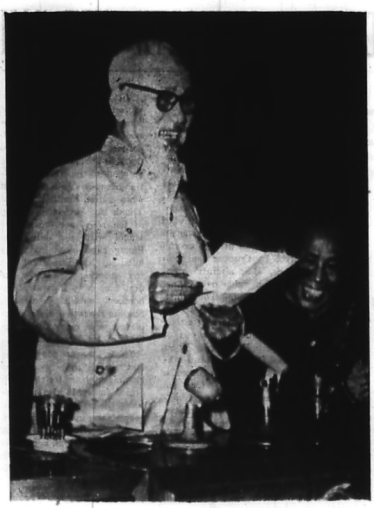

VIETNAM COURIER

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NEW YEAR MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT **HO CHI MINH**

This Spring far surpasses the previous ones.
Happy news of victory comes from all over the country.
Let South and North vie with each other in fighting the U.S. aggressors!
Forward!
Total victory shall be ours.

HO CHI MINH

COMPATRIOTS IN THE NORTH AND IN THE SOUTH! LET US BE ALL VALIANT COMBATANTS IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE U.S. AGGRESSORS, FOR NATIONAL SALVATION, AND RESOLVED TO WIN FINAL VICTORY!

Speech delivered by President Ho Chi Minh at the grand meeting held in Hanoi to mark the anniversaries of the founding of the Viet Nam People's Army (Dec. 22, 1944) and the Nationwide Resistance War against the French colonialists (Dec. 19, 1946)

Dear comrades and friends,

On the occasion of the anniversaries of the founding of our People's Army and the first Nationwide War of Resistance, I am one of those who feel most joyful and elated. I feel as though I were 20 years younger. For 23 years ago, I and a number of comrades were entrusted by our Party with the glorious task of organizing, training and leading our People's Army.

At first, there were only a few small groups of guerillas with rudimentary weapons. Thanks to the Marxist-Leninist line of our Party and the active support of our compatriots, our army has grown up quickly, making an important contribution to the seizure of power in the August Revolution, and after nearly 9 years of resistance war, defeated the professional colonialist army in the glorious Dien Bien Phu battle. Today our army has a blood-sealed brother—the heroic armed forces under the clearsighted leadership of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation. These armed forces are defeating 1,200,000 troops of the U.S. and their lackeys.

From our nationwide people's war against the U.S. imperialists, a great many heroes and heroines and valiant fighters have emerged. Here are a few examples:

In North Viet Nam, many units of aged militiamen as in Thanh Hoa have shot down U.S. aircraft. Many militia platoons entirely composed of countrywomen have also brought down U.S. planes.

Especially, 19-year-old Nguyen Thi Xuan of Quang Binh province knocked down by herself one U.S. jet plane with 20 bullets of her infantry gun. Some of our young pilots have shot down up to 7 U.S. aircraft each.

In South Viet Nam, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Liberation Armed Forces, Nguyen Thi Dinh, is a woman. Ho Van Men, in the eastern part of Nam Bo, though only 13 years of age, has killed or wounded with mines 75 G.I.s and puppet troops.

Nguyen Thi Hanh, an outstanding guerilla woman of Long An province, has built a very strong guerilla team and organized more than 300 attacks, inflicting many losses on the enemy and capturing a large number of weapons. Fifteen-year-old Kpa Ko Long of Gia Rai minority origin, with only booby traps and a crossbow, killed or wounded 8 enemy soldiers. He is now a young fighter credited with killing or wounding more than 100 American and mercenary troops.

There are many such stories and they have won the admiration of the whole world. I think it is right to praise such heroes and we can rightly be proud of them.

Our lines and policy are correct.

Our entire people are united and of one mind, our armed forces are very heroic, and we are enjoying the wholehearted assistance of the brother countries in the socialist camp and the firm support of friends in the five continents. That is why we will surely win, and the U.S. aggressors will surely be defeated.

The U.S. failure is evident. An indication of this is the fact that McNamara, one of the chief promoters of the aggressive war, has been compelled to resign as U.S. Defence Secretary, thus acting as the scapegoat for Johnson and company. However, the dichard U.S. imperialists have not yet given up their aggressive designs. That is why our armed forces and people must unite still more closely and constantly heighten vigilance, and dash forward with the impetus of new victories and a firm resolve to smash all the enemy schemes.

Our 31 million compatriots in the two zones, men and women, old and young, must be 31 million valiant fighters determined to win final victory over the U.S. aggressors to save the country.

On this occasion, on behalf of the Vietnamese people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, I thank the peoples and governments of the brother countries in the socialist camp, the peoples and governments of friendly countries, the world's people including the progressive people in the United States, who are opposing the U.S. imperialist aggressors and supporting the just fight of the Vietnamese people.

I heartily congratulate our armed forces and people who have braved all hardships and sacrifices in fighting resolutely against the U.S. aggressors, for national salvation, and have won many big successes in their great task of defending the North, liberating the South and reunifying the country.

Lastly, I wish all our comrades and friends would make new efforts and win new victories in the New Year.

1967, A YEAR OF BRILLIANT VICTORIES OF NORTH VIET NAM

ACCORDING to UPI, up to mid-December 1967, 900,000 tons of bombs were dropped on North Viet Nam by U.S. aircraft, or an average of 45 kgs per head of population. Contrary to all U.S. calculations, not only was production of North Viet Nam maintained, but it still made headway in some economic sectors. Meanwhile, the U.S. air force suffered such heavy losses that a Senate commission had to be set up to investigate the case.

U. S. LOSSES STEPPED UP

AT the end of February 1967, Johnson ordered U.S. artillery based south of Ben Hai river to shell North Viet Nam and the 7th Fleet to bombard the southern provinces of the D.R.V.N. Along with the bombing of the North, their aircraft also dropped mines in rivers and canals. Finally, Operation *Gadsden* and Operation *Junction City* launched in South Viet Nam ended in a complete fiasco. Meanwhile countering American artillerymen south of Ben Hai river, the North Vietnamese armed forces and people killed or wounded 2,700 enemy troops and destroyed 33 artillery pieces, 105 military vehicles of different types and 15 ammunition dumps. In addition, gunners of the Viet Nam People's Army shot ablaze or damaged 15 enemy warships and commando boats.

In the 1967 rainy season, the U.S., puppet and satellite troops found themselves in even tighter straits. Heavily battered in the South, they obdurately struck at the North and consequently their setbacks grew even heavier. Whereas in the first 3 months of 1967, the U.S. lost 128 planes over North Viet Nam, from April to September the figure ran to 602. Two months in this period saw the Americans pay the heaviest prices ever for their increased escalation: 160 planes were grounded in May and 116 in August.

At the outset of the 1967 dry season, the South Vietnam armed forces and people pressed ahead triumphantly, dealing one staggering blow after another at the U.S., puppet and satellite troops. As moved by a conditioned reflex, Johnson ordered again an increase in attacks on the North. In October and November, U.S. aircraft intensified their raids over Hanoi and Hai Phong. The North Viet Nam armed forces and people gave them a strong reply, shooting down 262 of them, with Hanoi bagging 72 and Hai Phong 37. After taking a stand-off to secure a breathing space for the replenishment and reorganisation of their strike force, from mid-December, they renewed their onslaughts. In the 6 days ending December 19 alone, the North Viet Nam armed forces and people brought down 44 U.S. planes, 22 of them over Hanoi.

In 357 days of 1967, the North Vietnamese armed forces and people shot down 1,059 U.S. planes, and hit 69 times enemy warships and commando boats which resulted in many craft set ablaze, sunk or damaged. All U.S. war escalations were frustrated.

What was remarkable was that alongside their brilliant victories, the people's armed forces of the D.R.V.N. grew stronger. The militia and self-defence forces alone knocked down 94 U.S. planes. Of these, 10 went to the credit of militia girls and 2 to a platoon of white-haired militiamen of Thanh Hoa province. On top of the 1967 score-board was Hanoi with 180 kills. Hai Phong came next with 132 kills. No less important was the shooting down for the first time of 5 B.52 strategic bombers within 3 months. Sharing the fate of these giant planes were many other aircraft of the latest models.

There was no denying the fact that 1967 was the gloomiest year for the U.S. armed forces. It also substantiates the brilliant successes of people's war in face of the U.S. war of destruction in North Viet Nam. The U.S. aggressors found their policy of strength going down-hill along with their airsupremacy.

Bumping their heads against a people possessed of the political and military line of Marxism-Leninism, of a centuries-old tradition of fighting against foreign aggression and tempered by war in over two decades, the U.S. imperialist aggressors can only choose between defeats of the present size and failures of greater magnitude. There is not a single ray of hope of victory for them.

★

— *Ready to repel the Seventh Fleet.*

— *They face the U.S. air force victoriously.*

AN AMERICAN JET DOWNED BY 3 RIFLE SHOTS

ON December 27, at 0.25 p.m., an American jet plane was grounded by 3 rifle shots of the rural militiamen of Quynh Luu district, 200 km south of Hanoi.

☆

Up to December 30, 1967, 2,682 U. S. planes were downed over North Viet Nam.

WE SHALL WIN AND SO WILL YOU

President HO CHI MINH's New Year's Message to American Friends Struggling for Freedom, Peace and Justice, Against the U.S. Imperialist War in Viet Nam.

I send you, friends, my best wishes for the New Year 1968.

As you all know, no Vietnamese has ever come to make trouble in the United States. Yet, half a million U.S. troops have been sent to South Viet Nam who, together with over 700,000 puppet and satellite troops, are daily massacring Vietnamese people and burning and demolishing Vietnamese towns and villages.

In North Viet Nam, thousands of U.S. planes have dropped over 800,000 tons of bombs, destroying schools, churches, hospitals, dykes and densely populated areas.

The U.S. government has caused hundreds of thousands of U.S. youths to die or to be wounded in vain on Viet Nam battlefields.

Each year, the U.S. government spends tens of billions of dollars, the fruit of the American people's sweat and toil, to wage war in Viet Nam.

In a word, the U.S. aggressors have not only committed crimes against Viet Nam, they have also wasted U.S. lives and riches, and stained the honour of the United States.

Friends, in struggling hard to make the U.S. government stop its aggression in Viet Nam, you are defending justice and, at the same time, you are giving us support.

To ensure our Fatherland's independence, freedom and unity, with the desire to live in peace and friendship with all peoples the world over, including the American people, the entire Vietnamese people, united and of one mind, are determined to fight against the U.S. imperialist aggressors. We enjoy the support of brothers and friends in the five continents. We shall win and so will you.

Thank you for your support for the Vietnamese people.

Best wishes to you all,

HO CHI MINH

"5 TONS OF PADDY PER HECTARE" HAS BECOME A REALITY

IN 1965, when Washington regularly unleashed its planes against the D.R.V.N., the watchword "five tons of paddy per hectare" was but a target figure. At the end of the year, seven districts fulfilled the norm.

In 1966, the U.S. aggressors stepped up their air raids. But our agriculture recorded more notable successes. The average yield in 16 districts reached or exceeded 5 tons per hectare. Thai Binh, one of the main rice-producing provinces in the Red River Delta, harvested 5.044 tons per hectare.

In 1967, U.S. air raids are by far fiercer than in 1966, chiefly in the Red River Delta where Hanoi and Hai Phong are the hardest hit. But:

At *provincial level*, two units have overfulfilled the target: Thai Binh with 5.497 tons and Hanoi with 5.169 tons/ha.

At *district level*, 41 units in 11 provinces and similar territories have hit the mark, including all the 9 provinces in the Red River Delta.

At *co-operative level*, the total number of units is not yet known but probably will largely exceed the thousand.

In the suburbs of Ha Phong, 150 co-operatives (3 times over 1966) surpassed the 5 ton/hectare mark. Thirty per cent of co-operatives in Hai Duong province recorded the same yield, including 21 which reached or exceeded 6 tons per hectare. Thirty one co-operatives have harvested 7 or 8 tons per hectare and 3 outstripped the 8-ton mark.

Thus the watchword "Five tons per hectare" has become a reality over an extensive area and is quite workable in the present-day conditions of Viet Nam where technical equipment is available, things quite "unimaginable" if one compares with the yield of North Viet Nam ricefields before the founding of the D.R.V.N., where the mark of 1.5 tons per hectare was never exceeded according to statistical figures supplied by the colonial administration.

A bumper crop

In the front row, left to right:

NGUYEN PHU SOAI, acting head of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. Permanent Mission in Hanoi, TRUONG CHINH, President of the D.R.V.N. National Assembly, TON DUC THANG, Vice President of the D.R.V.N., President HO CHI MINH, LE DUAN, First Secretary of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, Premier PHAM VAN DONG, NGUYEN DUY TRINH, Vice Premier and Foreign Minister, General VAN TIEN DUNG, Chief of the General Staff of the Viet Nam People's Army.

General Van Tien Dung

WE ARE DETERMINED TO COMPLETE OUR HISTORIC MISSION: TO DEFEAT COMPLETELY THE U.S. AGGRESSORS

At the grand meeting commemorating the 23rd founding anniversary of the V.P.A. and the 21st anniversary of the launching of the Nationwide Resistance War against the aggression of the French colonialists, General VAN TIEN DUNG, Chief of the General Staff of the V.P.A. delivered an important speech, large excerpts of which are given below.

OUR army was exactly two years old when the nationwide resistance to the French colonialists broke out. In face of the latter's aggressive actions and in response to President Ho Chi Minh's sacred appeal: "We are resolved not to lose our independence, not to become slaves, should we sacrifice everything," on December 19, 1946, our compatriots throughout the country, old and young, men and women, stood up as one with arms in hands for national salvation, thus triggering an all-out and protracted resistance war joined in by our entire people, determined to safeguard the independence and freedom freshly wrested back by the August Revolution. Spurred by an undaunted will and relying mainly on their own powers, our people endured countless sacrifices, hardships and sufferings, become stronger as they fought on, and succeeded in foiling one after another all of the enemy's military and political plans, and finally won the historic Dien Bien Phu victory. We thereby completely liberated the North, liquidated once for all the colonialist rule, and frustrated the U.S. imperialists' scheme to prolong and extend the Indo-China war.

The victories won by our people in their resistance to the French colonialists and the U.S. interventionists added new brilliant pages to their history of fighting off foreign aggression over the centuries. Those victories constitute a hymn to our people's heroism and a potential source of inspiration for the liberation struggle of the world's peoples.

No sooner had our first protracted resistance come to a close than American imperialism set out again to achieving its aggressive attempt to perpetuate the partition of our country, transform the South into a new-type colony and a military base of its own, prepare to attack the socialist North and to halt the march of the revolution in South Viet Nam and South-East Asian countries. Confronted with this U.S. perfidious and cruel imperialist policy, all our 14 million compatriots had no other alternative than to rise up once again for the reconquest of their legitimate right to live on the land bequeathed by their ancestors.

It is in the high tide of our southern countrymen's revolutionary struggle that on December 20, 1960 the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation came into being, marking an important turning point of the South Vietnamese people, to resist the American aggressors. Thanks to its correct political and military line, the N.F.L.— the sole authentic representative of the heroic people of South Viet Nam — has been, all through the past seven years, leading the sacred resistance of the South Viet Nam people to one victory after another.

Following the collapse of the Ngo Dinh Diem administration and the bankruptcy of their "special war" strategy, from 1965 onwards the U.S. imperialists have been bringing en masse expeditionary troops into the South with the hope of saving their aggressive undertaking then about to fail lamentably. In over two years now the strength of American, puppet and satellite troops has been raised to more than one million. The U.S. aggressors concentrated their forces on two "strategic counter-offensives" in the South in the 1965-1966 and 1966-1967 dry seasons, in the course of which they shrunk from no barbarous tricks so as to regain the initiative on the battlefields and turn the tide of the war. However, they suffered heavy defeats at the hands of the South Vietnamese armed forces and people in the very first round of their "limited war."

In the flush of their victories, since the beginning of summer and autumn this year, the P.L.A.F. have, together with our 14 million southern compatriots, unremittingly attacks the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen everywhere in both the military and political fields, in Quang Tri, central and southernmost Trung Bo, the Western High Plateaux, Eastern Nam Bo, the Mekong Delta and urban centres. They have thus forced the enemy to readjust their strategic battle-array and driven him into a more defensive and passive position.

The longer the South Vietnamese armed forces and people fight on, the better shape they find themselves in, and the greater their victories become. Taking advantage of their victories and responding to the appeal of the N.F.L. Presidium calling on it resolutely to achieve still more substantial successes in the 1967 winter - 1968 spring period, all South Viet Nam is pressing forward, attacking without let-up and has scored fresh resounding feats of arms at Loc Ninh, Dac To, in the Mekong Delta, South Trung Bo, Quang Tri and many other places. Meanwhile the adversary's political situation is growing from bad to worse. The election farce has proved unable to hide the traitorous colours of Thieu, Ky and their associates. The ranks of the U.S. aggressors and their agents are in great turmoil and torn by bitter dissensions and conflicts. Yankee imperialism finds itself in a more serious isolation in the world than ever. The major victories scored by the P.L.A.F. and people of South Viet Nam as from the start of the winter-spring period bring into bolder relief the weakening and losing position of the invaders and, on the other hand, their own winning position as well as the prospect of greater victories.

To deal with the developing situation in the South, last August the Extraordinary Congress of the N.F.L. endorsed its Political Programme aimed at "uniting the entire people, resolutely defeating the U.S. imperialists' war of aggression, overthrowing the puppet administration of their agents, setting up a broad-based national union and democratic government, and building up an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam pending the reunification of the Fatherland by peaceful means. Coupled with the appropriate line of resisting U.S. aggression and sensible policies, the Political Programme — the banner of broad national union, of the resolve to defeat the invaders — will surely infuse new strength into the people and fighters of the South in their march towards their ultimate victory.

With the deepest affection, we turn our eyes with extreme elation to the South, the great front of the whole country. We warmly acclaim the glorious exploits, the big and all-sided successes of the southern people and the P.L.A.F. and are firmly confident that our compatriots and comrades will strongly promote their winning position and heroically push ahead and end the winter-spring campaign in victory.

In their attempt to save their dismal situation in the South, since early 1965 the U.S. aggressors have recklessly been using their air and naval forces to strike relentlessly at the North of our country. They think that by dint of bombs and bullets they can shake our people's will to fight for independence, freedom and the reunification of our country. They have instead bumped against the iron will, the admirable courage of our northern countrymen and armed forces, and their powerful people's war.

Prompted by a deep hatred for the enemy, the people and army of the North have foiled the basic objectives of the war of destruction, brought down more than 2,600 aircraft, wiped out and captured a large number of pilots; sunk or set ablaze many American and puppet warships and commando vessels; they always stand in readiness to frustrate the enemy's schemes and acts of aggression. Never have our people's armed forces been so strong as today.

It is the determination of our people to defeat the U.S. aggressors while actively carrying on production, economic and cultural construction. In the thick of the war, far from weakening, our economic and defence potentials have increased. We have just obtained a bumper rice crop with high yields: over 40 districts achieved the annual 5-ton target per hectare while a hundred or so co-operatives brought in from 7 to 8 tons per hectare. Our industry, especially regional industry, keeps growing up. Our land and river communication network continues operating smoothly, linking the rear to the front and our country to the socialist countries. Our cultural and social activities go on developing in keeping with war-time conditions.

In the process of their resistance our people become more and more united around our Party Central Committee, our Government and President Ho Chi Minh, resolute as they are to fight until complete victory. Everyone lives, fights and produces with the finest and loftiest thoughts and feelings, the bearing of victors, with optimism, enthusiasm and confidence.

Clearly, the North, stronger and steadier than ever before,, is proudly fighting and winning, carrying on socialist construction to put into effect President Ho Chi Minh's teaching: "Our 17 million countrymen in the North are determined to fulfil their pledge to fight shoulder to shoulder With their 14 million southern compatriots, for the liberation of the South, the defence of the North and eventual reunification of the Fatherland."

The American aggressors have been losing in both parts of our country. The prospect of their defeat in Viet Nam is now clear as daylight. Recently, the men in the White House and Pentagon set out to creating a false atmosphere of "optimism" and sham victories with

(Continued page 7)

The audience warmly welcome the presidium of the meeting

With the Coming of Peach Blossoms

LUU QUY KY

A few sprigs of peach blossoms begin opening on the embankments of gun emplacements or by the side of drivers of lorries bound for all parts of the country. Saleswomen of state stores already set to preparing their sweets counters for the coming Tet festival. The postman's letter-bag is bulging with New Year's cards which keep flowing into Hanoi these last days from all parts of the world.

Another year has gone by, the thirteenth year of the struggle for the defence of the motherland, and the twenty-second of the armed struggle for the safeguard of the independence and freedom reconquered by the August Revolution.

I held my two children tightly in my arms, a seven-year-old boy and his sister who will soon be twelve. From their school evacuated to a rural area they came home on the occasion of the last suspension of operations.

"Are you glad to be back in Hanoi?" I asked them.

"We like best to be with daddy and mummy whether in Hanoi or in the countryside," my daughter replied. "At the evacuation centre the soldiers often tell us about the shooting down of American aircraft and the capturing of pilots. It's exciting indeed. The people of the house where we live are kind to us and so is the teacher."

"What's your plan here?" I asked again.

"A visit to our friend. Her house has been partly demolished by bombs."

I insisted: "Don't you like to go for a walk somewhere?"

"Don't you think, daddy, it's more proper to look up our friend and see what we can do to help her?"

I felt quite ashamed for having underrated the mental growth of my daughter over the past three years of the American war of destruction. In this span of time the discrepancy in understanding and sentiments between father and children, between children and grown-ups, has been largely reduced. Of course, war has its negative effects. However, our struggle for independence, freedom and socialism generates positive ones and constitutes a driving force. Boys and girls grow up rapidly, men and women become steeled, all our people mature swiftly in the crucible of war. Our culture and educational system is getting ceaselessly richer. The three million schoolchildren out of our seventeen million people in the North continue attending classes in the open air or down in underground shelters.

THE summer crop has been brought in. Seedlings for the Winter crop are already seen here and there. The many ricefields still pockmarked with bomb-craters, women transplanters walk vigilantly, their eyes looking skyward for enemy planes, their feet treading gingerly not to step on sharp shell fragments. The paddy grows spontaneously, according to physiological laws, but the man who plants it acts consciously and with determination. The last crop has obtained a high yield. The "five tons per hectare per year" watchword put forward before the Americans bombed North Viet Nam had been regarded by some people as "a wild dream". Now, after three years of confrontation with the U.S. air and naval marauders, the Bac Bo plains have surpassed the five-ton target. Not a few co-ops reached six or seven tons/ha and some ricefields even nine or ten.

In open fields, on the banks of river and edges of stream, in coastal areas as in the heart of the jungle, factories have sprung up. Small though they are, these factories have been blue printed and built by men and women who flinch from no difficulties. In prevision of air raids big factories were converted into small ones, scattering in different places. Thus industrial enterprises have quickly increased in number amidst the flames of the war. The output of industry and handicraft never ceases to grow. New articles have appeared in the market to meet the needs of the population and the fighting.

Just as observed the French correspondent Michele Ray, "February 7, 1965, the first day of escalation, is far away. That day the hopes of a forced capitulation were allowed. But despite tons of steel and iron showered on it by aircraft, these stubborn North Vietnamese stand firm."

What did the bosses of the White House and the Pentagon reap out of three years of bombing of North Viet Nam?

Millions of shouts of hatred, billions of curses, nearly 2,700 aircraft blast to pieces, about a thousand pilots killed or captured. The prestige of the U.S. air force has been damaged. And the bloc of seventeen million people becomes still more united politically and morally, more resolved in their resistance to U.S. aggression.

SURELY, spring has come in South Viet Nam. There apricot blossoms bear resemblance to peach blossoms in the North. They differ only in colour, one being yellow and the other pink. But according to a national tradition, both colours join in to add a merry note to celebrations of victories. Apricot blossoms usually open when the year's end harvest is in. This year the Nam Bo plains, the major part of which is under the South Viet Nam N.F.L. control, have also reaped a bumper rice crop: More than a million and a half tons of paddy in the Mekong Delta alone. The yields of many fields reached from 11 to 13 tons per hectare! Once man is freed, land becomes more fertile.

After harvest, our tillers burn the dry stalks to fertilize the fields. At this time, smoke is hanging over the paddies. Tortoises, which hide themselves deep in the earth, crawl out because of the smoke. Years ago, I still remember, a tenant had both hands cut off by his landlord for having picked up a tortoise

(Continued page 6)

POLITICAL MASS STRUGGLE IN OCCUPIED REGIONS

WITH the start of the 1966 Winter-1967 Spring season, when the South Viet Nam armed forces and people began recording victory after victory, millions of political fighters also set out to attack the enemy with military and political actions and agitation among his troops. In the last quarter of 1966, a total count of 1,602,000 people participated in the struggle against the American aggressors and their puppets. Within 50 days (December 1, 1966 - January 20, 1967) 49,000 people took part in 1,200 actions, big and small, in the districts of Hoa Vang, Dien Ban, Duy Xuyen (Quang Nam province). In the first quarter of 1967, 104,000 people took to the streets in Quang Ngai province, especially in Binh Son and Son Tinh districts. From 1966 Winter — 1967 Spring to April 1967, in Central Nam Bo nearly 1,000,000 people marched onto the towns. In the Summer and Autumn of 1967, impelled forward by their successes, the political fighters stepped up their attacks, intensifying the struggle of the entire people determined to defeat U.S. aggression.

THE TOWNS ARE NO LONGER U.S. AGGRESSORS AND PUPPETS' SANCTUARIES

ON May Day 1966, Phan Xuan Thai, head of the South Viet Nam Liberation Trade Unions, warned the enemy that he could no longer rule the roost in the towns and other areas still under his occupation. These were no longer sanctuaries for him because they sheltered a latent and smouldering revolutionary force potentially able to neutralize him and overrun his bases. At present, the towns are in the process of becoming a battlefront where the workers are the staunch fighters to wipe out the American aggressors and overthrow their puppets.

In point of fact, in December 1966 42,000 workers of the RMK – BRJ firm in Saigon, Gia Dinh, Bien Hoa, Cam Ranh, Chu Lai, Da Nang... put up a fierce struggle against sacking, for wage-lifts and better living conditions. Workers of the Caltex oil company also went on strike in their support. What was remarkable was that about 1,000 Filipino and South Korean workers at the U.S. firms also joined in the struggle for a wage-increase. Then 6,000 Vietnamese workers and employees at such U.S. offices as USAID, JUSPAO... also demanded higher pay to cope with the runaway inflation and rocketing price hike. Most remarkable was the action of 5,000 workers at the Saigon naval base (New Harbour) coupled with that of tens of thousands of other workers and labouring people in the city to force the American military authorities to reinstate 600 dismissed mates of theirs. This sit-in demonstration was backed by many trade union organizations with tens of thousands of members. The struggle of this revolutionary mass force took place right in the midst of the U.S. puppet hapless dry season.

Early in 1967, 2,700 Vietnamese workers and employees at the AID office in Saigon and at the logistics construction site in Long Binh (Bien Hoa) mounted an action for a pay rise. On May Day, workers and labouring people together with Buddhist students and tens of thousands of other people staged demonstrations and parades, demanding indepeendence, democracy and better living conditions and chanting slogans in downtown Saigon, Can Tho, Ben Tre, Ca Mau...

After a strike held by 300 workers at the RMK—BRJ in Vung Tau to demand punishment for a cruel Pak Jung Hi mercenary in June 1967, violent actions occurred in August: 700 workers at the ESSO oil company in Saigon, Nha Be and Tan Son Nhut downed tools to oppose sacking (August 7); 200 workers at the equipment firm demanded that a wicked American foreman be punished (August 12-14); 200 workers at the Vimytex textile mill and at the Majestic hotel struggled for a wage-lift; 1,300 workers at the Tan Le airfield (Binh Dinh) opposed beating and denounced U.S. puppet crimes (August 28); 800 workers at the Dau Tieng rubber plantation (Thu Dau Mot) demanded cancellation of unfair regulations, and compensation for the families of victims of the Americans and their puppets.

Along with the workers in the towns, the labouring people rose up against house eviction and land grabbing, unwarranted fines and tax increase. On March 20 and 22, 1967 more than 3,400 people in Nha Tho, Banh Dau (Saigon) opposed house eviction, arson, phoney communal elections, building of military bases, extension of airfields...

Many of them refused to move from their quarters and rebuilt their houses with the help of their neighbours.

After the faked elections, the drive against rigged elections was stepped up by the students. These were the most serious anti-puppet government actions for over a year, admitted *AP* on September 29.

In Saigon-Gia Dinh, Hue, Da Nang, Can Tho, Rach Gia, many drives for better living conditions and democracy broke out under various forms, including teach-ins, petitions by industrialists, traders, writers, artists, journalists, teachers, and involving an ever greater number of participants. Remarkable was the meeting attended by many professors, lawyers and economic researchers at the Saigon Chamber of Commerce on Feb. 27, 1967 which issued a statement demanding economic sovereignty for the Vietnamese people, confiscation of land and other economic premises grabbed by the Americans, and calling for "a struggle against all aggression and enslavement by foreigners (U.S.) for the development of the national economic structure."

Moreover, students and professors branded the Saigon puppet administration as "rigged up by the Americans," denounced its repressive measures and demanded an end to the war. Besides, the press claimed freedom of opinion, freedom of the press... Buddhists demanded cancellation of the 23/67 decree enacted by the Thieu-Ky clique recognizing the Thich Tam Chau faction as the orthodox Buddhist sect, and also denounced the election fraud...

THE COUNTRYSIDE JOINS EFFORTS WITH THE TOWNS AGAINST U.S. AGGRESSORS AND PUPPETS

THE peasants living in the vicinity of the cities and towns, military posts and communication lines clung to by the enemy had to confront him. They had to fight off "mopping-up" raids, "pacification" schemes, terrorism and repression, sprayings of toxic chemicals, sabotage of production, destruction of crops, pressganging of labourers and soldiers... A bomb or a shell demolishing a hut, killing or wounding a person, an ox plundered... provided a pretext for tens, hundreds, thousands or tens of thousands of people to mount an action against the American aggressors, the puppet military or administrative authorities to demand reparation. At a shout of alarm, the whole village assembled with spades, rakes or even bare hands to check the advance of armoured cars, the opening up of machine-guns, or to prevent the enemy's bloody hands from murdering people, burning houses, devastating crops. Many raids had to be called off, many "strategic hamlets" could not be set up, many young people escaped the enemy's pressganging. A grim and most efficient struggle was put up to preserve the people's lives and property wherever there were American aggressors, puppets, "strategic hamlets" or "pacification" projects.

6,000 people in Duc Hoa (25 km west of Saigon) took turns to fight the enemy until he withdrew (from January 23 to February 11, 1967). 500 peasants with spades halted a convoy and forced the enemy to give scores of thousand *dongs* as compensation for the losses he had inflicted upon them.

20,000 people demonstrated on the Vam Co Dong river to oppose a massacre. 10,000 people in the districts of Can Duoc, Can Giuoc, Tan Tru, Ben Luc, Thu Thua (Tan An-Cho Lon province) bringing with them their children along with testimonies, paraded on Highway Dong Duong-My Tho and Highway 5 (Saigon-Go Cong) to denounce the enemy "pacification" scheme. The uprising of people on Highway 4 filled the enemy with dismay: the "strategic hamlets" inmates occupied the road, hoisted N.F.L. flags and came back to their native villages. Similar insurrections also broke out on Highway 24 on the nights of July 20 and 21, at Ben Luc from July 18 to 25, at Ben Tre, on Highway 6 in the night of July 28.

STRUGGLE IN THE WESTERN HIGH PLATEAUX AGAINST THE ENEMY TO DEFEND THE PEOPLE AND THE CROPS

52 "strategic hamlets and zones" went up in smoke. In Gia Lai province 100 actions with a total count of 1,300 participants took placq in May 1967. In Binh Thuan province 3,000 people of Cham nationality put up a struggle from February to June 1967 to protest against the enemy shelling of their village. In June 1967, a total count of 2,300 people marched into Pleiku town to protest against terrorism, "mopping-up" operations and for the freedom of movement. Within 25 days, the people in Kon Tum province staged 100 face-to-face struggles against the American aggressors and their puppets for more adequate food supplies and freedom of going to farm their land...

Like the people in the plains, those in the Western High Plateaux intensified their struggle against the enemy, stepping up their demand for democracy, better living conditions and their opposition against terrorism, plunder, massacre and sprayings of toxic chemicals.

175,000 enemy troops were put out of action in 1966 Winter - 1967 Spring, and 143,000 others in this summer-autumn, the "pacification" programme has become a laughing stock for everybody, and the American puppets have been driven into increasing confusion. All these setbacks are partly due to the political struggle put up in the zone temporarily occupied by the U.S. aggressors and their puppets.

Already in last August the Front's Political Programme said among other things:

"The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation undertakes to encourage all strata of the population in the towns and rural areas still under enemy control to unite and struggle in every possible form against the grip of the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys, destroy the 'phuong' (corporations) and 'strategic hamlets,' demand democratic freedoms, national sovereignty, and a better life, oppose pressganging of troops and forcible labour draft, struggle against enslaving and depraved culture, and march forward, together with the entire people, to overthrow the enemy's rule and seize political power."

This appeal has been provoking deep repercussions in the hearts of the people living in the zone temporarily occupied by the enemy and becoming a force which is causing him perplexity and failure.

A Puppet Battalion Wiped Out near Vinh Long; A U.S. Company Wiped Out...

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farther to the east, a third U.S. company was put out of action and another badly mauled near Ca Tum. On the afternoon of Dec. 18, a U.S. battalion and an artillery unit landed at 3km southeast of Ca Tum were deployed into three points d'appui. But at midnight two of them were stormed by the P.L.A.F. who silenced the U.S. artillery positions by accurate mortar fire. After an hour's fierce fighting, the enemy had over 200 men killed or wounded, 11 military vehicles, 5 105mm cannons and an electric generating set destroyed.

Altogether in this period, the enemy lost 1,100 men killed or wounded or captured (including 640 G.I.'s), 17 armoured vehicles and 5 105mm cannons destroyed and 18 helicopters downed.

HEAVY SHELLINGS BY THE P.L.A.F. IN HUE—QUANG TRI REGION

THE P. L. A. F. artillery inflicted heavy losses upon the enemy in the northern part of South Viet Nam, *Giai Phong Press Agency* reported. An airfield 3km from Quang Tri town was pounded on the night of Dec. 16, resulting in 175 enemy casualties (most of them U.S. Marines), 3 B-57 bombers, many armoured vehicles and warehouses destroyed.

On the night of Dec. 21, the P.L.A.F. hammered at the encampments of two puppet companies in the western suburbs of Hue and a C.P. northwest of the city causing 220 casualties to the enemy and destroying many buildings, barracks and storehouses.

STEPPING UP OF GUERILLA ACTIVITIES IN THE 6th ZONE

GUERILLA warfare was stepped up in November in the 6th Zone, comprising the provinces situated from 110km to 320km northeast of Saigon so far a rather quiet area.

On the night of November 16, *Giai Phong Press Agency* reported, a post in Nha Trang region defended by puppet soldiers was stormed by the guerillas who the next day intercepted a military convoy between Nha Trang and Cam Ranh naval base, destroying a locomotive and 13 carriages. Previously, a post held by South Korean troops had been heavily mortared by regional P.L.A.F. who put out of action two enemy groups and destroyed a storehouse.

In Phan Rang region, an important U.S. base, the road linking the town to the nearby railway station, was cut off in many sections by the guerillas who blew up on Nov. 29 a water main of Da Nhin hydro-power station, the biggest of its kind in South Viet Nam. A bridge and two military posts with their garrisons were swept away by the flood. The damaged electric station had to stop working for some time.

Farther south, in Binh Thua, the same source reported, a platoon of puppet Rangers had been wiped out and another suffered heavy losses on Nov. 29 near Dang Xay hill. In a surprise attack mounted by the guerillas on Nov. 20 against Phan Thiet town, a sub-sector commander was killed and 11 men of a puppet company put out of action. On the night of Nov. 9, 37 enemy troops were killed, wounded or captured in a P.L.A.F. attack on a district capital northeast of Phan Thiet province.

In Ban Me Thuot (Western High Plateaux) an enemy post was assaulted on the night of Nov. 9 and a bridge heavily damaged; a platoon of militia was wiped out and another decimated.

WITH THE COMING OF PEACH BLOSSOMS

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chased out by smoke. The verdict of the tribunal which judged the case said that the landowner had perfectly the right to punish a robber in this way. What's the difference between old and new colonialism? Now that the U.S. expeditionary troops cannot penetrate into the Nam Bo plains, they burn the peasants' crops there with napalm. But the golden age when foreign rulers and the native traitors in their pay could do what they pleased has become a thing of the past.

From October last year, the U.S. aggressors mounted such large-scale operations as Attleboro, Gadsden *and* Junction City, *each involving from 30,000 to 40,000 men. This year, though December is coming to an end, the American Command still shows "modesty," yielding to the Liberation forces the initiative of the offensive at Long An, Loc Ninh, Dac To just as at Chu Lai, Da Nang and in the provinces of Quang Tri and Thua Thien. And when their troops were attached they were equally "modest," rather sober in their reaction. They powerlessly witnessed the destruction of 33 of their battalions in a little less than one half of the dry season. They almost invariably comforted themselves with such words as: "The situation is evolving hopefully." All of a sudden they established a 10,000-mile long airlift across the Pacific with more than 250 transport planes to bring Division 101 from the U.S. to South Viet Nam. What was the reason for such an emergency rescue operation? Which, the U.S. expeditionary force or the South Viet Nam people, the P.L.A.F. and the N.F.L., holds the initiative in all theatres of operations? Also this year Westmoreland asked for 200,000 more men. Not so many, only 45,000, was the answer from Washington. As for Johnson, he demanded a 10 per cent additional tax and met with a "No" from the Congress. Why has the "wealthy" and "powerful" United States to skin a flint? A host of American political and military figures—McNamara, Goldberg, Freeman, and others—have resigned or asked to do so or have been sacked. Again, what's the reason behind all this? Were they physically unfit to carry on their jobs? Did they want to have time to care for their wives or children's health? Were they inefficient? Was it fear of responsibility or punishment for crimes committed?*

True, the year 1967 is one of tremendous victories for the people and army of South Viet Nam. They promoted the initiative of action, in all theatres and drove their opponent into a defensive position and a stalemate. They attached him everywhere from the 17th parallel down to the Point of Ca Mau and put out of action 300,000 U.S., puppet and satellite troops. The puppet army further disintegrated and the Saigon administration sank deeper in its bog. Confusion prevailed in the U.S. administration.

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A woman writer bade farewell to Hanoi, holding a bouquet in her arms. From a western country, she had come for a three-week visit to Viet Nam. Shaking hands with her Vietnamese friends, she said, "I'll live with the great poem 'Viet Nam' and live as you Vietnamese are doing."

We understood what she meant. Here was the language of poets. She wanted to stimulate us. We shall not fail to prove worthy of her words and of those of our friends in all continents. Unfinished in 1967, the poem "Viet Nam against American aggression" will certainly be completed in future. The Vietnamese people are living and accomplishing their national and international duties. They will continue to live up to the hope, sympathy and support of their friends the world over.

American imperialism, the number one enemy of us all, will have its backbone broken, and its dream of aggression shattered.

On the threshold of the very promising year 1968, while raising a cup of the traditional green tea before a branch of peach or apricot blossoms beside a gun emplacement, in an underground shelter or on the march, we here in Viet Nam hum this New Year's verse by President Ho Chi Minh which is also our own:

This Spring far surpasses the previous ones.
Happy news of victory comes from all over the country.

TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

We Are Determined to Complete Our Historic Mission

(Continued from page 5)

a view deceiving world opinion and the American people. How can they, however, conceal their heavy defeats on both the military and political planes? Nevertheless, they still remain obdurate and treacherous. They are seeking ways and means to intensify and expand the war while ceaselessly multiplying "peace negotiation" swindles. They are preparing for new military adventures, striving to increase their troop-strength, pressing their satellites for more cannon-fodder, and clamouring for fiercer escalation in the North. At the same time the war maniacs in the United States are howling for strikes against the northern part of the demilitarized zone and extension of the war to Laos and Cambodia. Obviously, the U.S. reactionary rulers are planning further adventurous steps and scheming to spread the flames of war all over Indo-China. The deeper they sink into the quagmire of their aggressive war in Viet Nam, the more reckless and brutal they grow. But no matter how violent their throes are, to whatever extent they may increase the effectives of their troops, and whatever adventurous schemes and acts they may resort to, they will by no means escape a bitter defeat. For, despite their immense potential, these topmost international corsairs and blackmailers, who, having broken into our land without any reason, have undoubtedly to cope with the whole material and moral strength, the all-sided strength of an indomitable nation having two decades of struggle against imperialist invasion, of an entire nation united as one man, ready to endure all sacrifices, hardships and suffering in its struggle for complete independence and freedom.

A close friend and comarade-in-arms of the two neighbouring peoples of Laos and Cambodia, the people and People's Army of Viet Nam have shown, and will always show, solidarity with them. They are resolved to join hands with them and fight to a finish against the common enemy—the U.S. imperialist aggressor—for the independence, freedom and territorial integrity of the three countries.

Looking back to the path already traversed, we feel more elated, and more confident in the radiant future of our people. In earnest response to President Ho Chi Minh's sacred appeal for resistance to U.S. aggression, for national salvation, our entire people and army closely united, are determined to undergo all sacrifices and hardships to complete our historic mission: to completely defeat the American aggressors.

IN THE LIBERATED ZONES OF SOUTH VIET NAM

— The entire people learn the military art.
— Combat against diseases.

1967, a Gloomy Year for the U.S. Armed Forces in South Viet Nam

1967, the second year of the U.S. "local war" in South Viet Nam, was a year of the most strenuous efforts in the war of aggression and of greatest hopes, but also of abysoral failures of the U.S. aggressors who are in the greatest quandary.

The U.S. imperialists began their second dry-season strategic counter-offensive with large-scale operations such as *Cedar Falls* (January 1967), *Gadsden* (February 1967), *Deckhouse V* (January 1967) and especially *Junction City* which was the biggest operation lasting from February 22 to March 15, 1967 and involving 45,000 soldiers, hundreds of aircraft, 200 cannons and 850 armoured vehicles, against an area of 400 square kilometres; their "search and destroy" and "pacification" pincers met with a great fiasco and their second dry-season counter-offensive came to a complete flop; in Operation *Junction City*, the enemy lost 7,300 men killed or wounded, 692 military vehicles (including 387 tanks and armoured cars), 119 aircraft and 64 heavy guns destroyed.

In the first quarter of 1967, 80,000 enemy troops (half of them American) were put out of action, including 32 battalions completely wiped out, 686 aircraft, 1,273 armoured vehicles, 156 heavy guns destroyed or damaged, 30 war vessels sunk or set afire. This defeat dashed the hope of the aggressors and spoiled all their schemes. That is why in the rainy season of 1967, they fell back on the defensive in order to keep intact their forces and guard their "enclaves." But in the 1967 rainy season the American aggressors fared no better than in 1966 and their strength experienced a substantial drop. Throughout its five months their reinforcements trickled in while the bulk of their 460,000 strong army had to be constantly on the move to parry blows from the P.L.A.F. who surrounded them with the sea of fire of guerilla warfare and relentlessly attacked them on all battlefields of South Viet Nam, especially on Highway 9, north of Quang Tri province, and Highway 4, in the Mekong Delta.

As a result, the American aggressors and their lackeys were beaten black and blue in the 1967 wet season and suffered heavy losses, having over 143,000 men, including 64,000 G.I.'s, put out of action, 22 battalions completely wiped out, 1,400 aircraft, 3,100 military vehicles, 107 war vessels, destroyed or damaged. In the same period, American casualties doubled those of the 1966 rainy season and nearly equalled those of the 1966-1967 dry season.

This heavy setback has greatly affected the strategic plan of U.S. commanders and aggravated their stalemate, creating for them untold difficulties to launch the third dry-season strategic counter-offensive. For this reason, their mood at the beginning of this present dry season has been one of frustration and gloom. On the South Viet Nam battlefield, the U.S. expeditionary troops received the hardest blows from the P.L.A.F. at Loc Ninh, Bu Dop, Cai Be, Hau My, Ham Luong, Giong Trom, Dac To, Bau Oc, Da Nang, etc. In the first two months of the third dry-season counter-offensive (October and November 1967), over 40,000 enemy troops (nearly one half of these were American and satellite soldiers) were put out of action, 21 battalions were completely wiped out (almost equal to the number of. G.I.'s knocked out in the five months of the last rainy season), 400 aircraft downed, 800 military vehicles and over 130 heavy guns destroyed or damaged. The losses suffered by the aggressors in this closing month of December will be more serious.

1967 was indeed a gloomy year for the American imperialists. Their war of aggression in South Viet Nam has been woefully affecting their global strategy and has given rise to a crisis among the U.S. ruling circles, one of those aftermaths was the resignation of McNamara.

Not only were the U.S. aggressors defeated on the battlefield, but they also failed piteously in the political and diplomatic field in the "presidential" elections in Saigon. Though Johnson has exaggerated U.S. successes in South Viet Nam, *UPI* remarked on November 17, 1967 that no good news was to be expected by the U.S. president.

Activities of South Viet Nam P.L.A.F.

A Puppet Battalion Wiped Out near Vinh Long; a U.S. Company Wiped Out, a Battalion Decimated.

A battalion of the puppet army was wiped out together with its command in a battle at the gates of Vinh Long town, 100km southwest of Saigon, in the Mekong Delta, *Giai Phong Press Agency* reported.

On Dec. 22, hardly had it left the town for an action in support of a raid when Battalion 4, Regiment 13, puppet Infantry Division 9, was intercepted 500 metres west of Vinh Long. A fierce battle took place from morning till night in which the enemy had one company wiped out and another badly mauled. The next day, at 4 a. m., a third company was put out of action in no time together with the battalion commander and deputy-commander as well as three American "advisors."

ON December 6, the guerillas shelled an American post 25km north of the big base of Bien Hoa. An American company engaged in a raid on the surroundings of the assailed post was completely wiped out in half an hour's fighting and lost all its weapons.

An American battalion supported by tanks was sent to the scene, but intercepted by the P.L.A.F., had to fall back, leaving on the battlefield many casualties and a great quantity of weapons.

Thus, in these battles of December 6, the P.L.A.F. entirely wiped out an American company, decimated an American battalion, destroyed 5 tanks and armoured cars and downed a helicopter.

On the same night, an attack was mounted against two military organisms in Bien Hoa urban area, causing 76 casualties to the enemy (including 3 puppet captains), and destroying 40 military vehicles and 7 barracks; a great quantity of arms and ammunition was seized at the C.P. of the puppet provincial militia. Meanwhile, 135 Yankees were killed or wounded (including members of the military assistance mission to the puppet "Third Military Sector") at the base of an American scout unit, 3km east of the same town.

1,100 ENEMY SOLDIERS PUT OUT OF ACTION IN 13 DAYS IN TAY NINH

BETWEEN December 8 and 20, in the region where the biggest operation dubbed *Juncion City* had taken place at the beginning of 1967, the Yankees suffered heavy losses in a series of fierce battles. On Dec. 14, at 30km north of Tay Ninh town, intercepted 7 times by the P.L.A.F., two U.S. companies had 200 men killed or wounded, 2 choppers downed and 6 armoured cars destroyed. Meanwhile, at 10km

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